

Section VII: Woodland Resource Action Plan

Plan Specifications and Appendix

*Woodland Resource Action Plans (WRAPs) are intended to provide a good description of the current and potential values of woodland, and a blueprint of activities to reach woodland owner's objectives to maintain and improve their woods. **Bolded items below are minimum requirements** for approval for cost-share reimbursement. Other items may be suitable to include based on landowner needs and wishes. The checklist on page 6 of this document contains only the minimum required items.*

General information:

Include, possibly as a cover page, the **Landowner name, mailing address, telephone number(s)**, and e-mail address if applicable. Show the **Plan preparer's name, mailing address, telephone number(s)**, and e-mail (optional), along with the **Plan preparation date**, and the **location of parcel** (at a minimum show the town, county, tax map and lot #'s) A **statement of the owner's management goals and objectives** must be included. The **Planning period** (minimum of 10 years) and the **renew-by date** to stay current should be stated. The **plan preparer's signature** must be included. The landowner's signature is optional on the Plan itself, but is required on an attached **Stewardship Pledge**.

A **Schedule of activities to be implemented during the planning period** will summarize recommended activities by parcel, stand or other geographic location, as applicable. This can be a stand-alone page, or included with other pages. It is highly advised to prominently display this section near the beginning of the Plan. **The column headings in the following template are required.** Exact format may vary, but plan readers should be able to easily find this information.

Template for Schedule of Activities:

| <u>Activity name</u> (should be same as used in Prescription section) | <u>Extent</u> of the activity (acres, feet, miles, etc.) | Recommended <u>time frame</u> (month, year, or range as applicable) | <u>Stand Location:</u> name or number (should be same as used in Description section and stand type map); or other location as applicable | <u>Cost/income</u> :: + (expected to yield income above cost) -- (expected to be a net expense) = (break-even) ? (unable to determine at this time) [At a minimum, use the symbols; may use text if preferred.] | (Optional) Priority: High. Medium, or Low |
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Maps:

At a minimum, one **Forest type and stand map** shall be prepared for the parcel, including **property boundaries, location of water bodies and wetlands, significant wildlife habitat, broad cover types**, including forest stands typed by (at a minimum) SW/MW/HW; **non-forest land** (may be broken out to internal parcel lines, ledges and barrens, building areas, gravel or other mining areas, utility rights of way, roads, agriculture, and other, as applicable); **areas where forest management is affected by shoreland zoning or other area-based rules or regulations**. Additional maps showing soils information, general location in the landscape, community or watershed, or proposed activity locations are optional. These maps may be in electronic OR paper formats, or both. However, all maps must have north arrow, preparation date, legend, preparer's signature, and scale. Map preparers who are not licensed surveyors are strongly advised to include a disclaimer such as "Not a legal survey" somewhere on the map.

In addition, federal reporting requires that the woodlands covered by Woodland Resource Action Plans be mapped in a Geographic Information System (GIS). This information will be considered confidential, the same as any and all personally identifiable information (PII) in the WRAP. The polygons are being collected for federal reporting purposes only, in an aggregate form only.

There are several options for plan writers to meet this requirement:

- a) A list of the latitude and longitude coordinates of the corners of the woodlands covered by the WRAP. The coordinates must be listed in a consecutive order around the perimeter of each parcel. The datum (NAD 83 or WGS 84) must be stated.
- b) Provide a polygon shapefile of the woodlands covered by the WRAP, with the following coordinate system: Datum NAD83, Projection UTM Zone 19N. The shapefiles must be attributed with sufficient information to uniquely identify the landowner with the woodlands in the plan.
- c) Provide a Google Earth .kml or .kmz file of the woodlands covered by the WRAP. Make sure to use an appropriate scale that clearly depicts the woodland on current aerial photography. Mark enough vertices in the polygon so the woodland is depicted accurately. Include sufficient information in the label so the land owner is uniquely identified with the woodland.

Other methods of meeting the GIS requirement may be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact Greg Miller at (207) 287-8121, or greg.t.miller@maine.gov, with any questions regarding these requirements.

General conditions of woodlot:

An **acreage listing including total acres, forest, water bodies identified by Department of inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and all other non-forest** (may be further broken out as other water bodies, wetlands, ledges and barrens, building areas, gravel or other mining areas, utility right-of-ways, roads, agriculture, and other, as applicable). Figures should be calculated at least to the nearest acre, but may be shown as square footage if appropriate (roads, building areas, for example).

A statement concerning the current **condition of boundary lines** is required. Details may include an indication of need to establish and/or maintain some or all lines. Recommendations for boundary lines may be included here or in the Description/Prescription section, But should be identified in the Schedule of Activities.

Soils info, at a minimum a listing of the soils series found on the parcel. A separate map may be used to show the location of these soils. Other information may include suitability for growing trees and optimum seasons/conditions of operability.

General property description and history, which should include terrain, topography, aspect, slopes, past land use, harvests and/or disturbances, insect and disease conditions observed.

Access related items such as condition of roads and trails, seasonal or other limitations, nearest public road, deeded or other rights of way, etc.

Legal considerations affecting forestry activities on the parcel, including deed restrictions, easements, shoreland or other zoning, Forest Practices Act and Natural Resource Protection Act considerations, etc. Any permits/notifications needed to implement recommended activities should be identified.

Stand Descriptions and Prescriptions:

Include a brief statement describing actual **field methods** used develop the Plan. Any terms or labels used for stand identification and/or typing nomenclature should be clearly defined either in the Plan itself or in a separate Glossary or Key.

Stand descriptions should include an identifying **cover type** (minimum of SW, MW and HW); the **acreage** of the stand; the **dominant tree species and size classes**; **relative stocking**; and a **description of stand quality** related to current and potential forest products. An estimate of standing volume, with an indication of range of accuracy of the estimate, may be included. Other stand-specific information such as age, health, growth rates and relative volume and value of standing forest products (veneer or other saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, etc) may also be included.

Silvicultural Prescription(s) for the planning period (minimum of ten years) recommended to meet landowner's objectives. If timber or commercial forest products

are a primary objective, **activities to regenerate, improve and harvest timber**. These can be written for each stand, a multi-stand compartment or the parcel as a whole, as appropriate to the situation and activity. **The activities must be identified with the appropriate stand(s) or compartment(s) and be easily identified on the stand map.** Appropriate **Best Management Practices** must be described.

Other recommended activities, such as boundary line maintenance, wildlife habitat practices, or access improvements may also be included here and on the Schedule of Activities. Alternative recommendations and/or constraints to implementation may also be included. If a harvest or other silvicultural activity is recommended for the planning period, providing an approximate quantitative indication of results (such as target basal area or crop trees per acre, percentage of overstory removed, or spacing of residual trees) and a statement of potential costs and/or income is strongly advised.

A brief statement of **desired future stand conditions**, which may include some or all of the following: forest type, size or age, structure, forest products and grades, species composition, as well as desired recreational, wildlife habitat, aesthetic or other landowner-desired outcomes. This can be contrasted with the likely future condition if no action is taken; these can be the same, if appropriate.

Long term resource considerations:

Any **Threatened and Endangered species** known to occur on the property, and any **Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife- identified habitats**, must be identified. If there are none known, then a statement to that effect must be included in the Plan. The standard checklist of items from the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) will cover this requirement. In addition, the following items must be addressed, as required by the national Forest stewardship program standards. The appendix for Section VII includes a series of suggested statements which may be used to meet the minimum standards for these items of the Plan. Plan writers can also add to or replace the statements with their own version, as long as all the items are addressed.

Wetlands

Forest health

Historical, cultural & archaeological sites, other special sites: This item may be addressed by describing any locations in the woodlot with special significance to the landowner or the community, such as scenic views, special trees or stands, or cemeteries, headstones, etc.

Protection from fire

Soil & water quality protection

Biodiversity

Fish & wildlife issues: This item may be addressed by describing any landowner-identified interests, such as deer habitat or stocking fish in ponds.

Monitoring

Protection from pests

Recreational opportunities: This item may be addressed by describing landowner's stated recreational goals and/or activities, if any.

Aesthetic quality

Carbon sequestration

APPENDIX for SECTION VII

Check-list of required elements:

General Information:

- ☐ **Landowner name, mailing address, telephone number**
- ☐ **Plan preparer's name, mailing address, telephone number**
- ☐ **Plan preparation date**
- ☐ **Location of parcel**
- ☐ **Statement of the owner's management goals and objectives**
- ☐ **Planning period; renew-by date**
- ☐ **Plan preparer's signature**

- ☐ **Schedule of Activities to be implemented during the planning period**
 - Includes:
 - ☐ **Activity name,**
 - ☐ **extent,**
 - ☐ **stand ID,**
 - ☐ **recommended time frame**
 - ☐ **cost/income indicator.**

- ☐ **Forest type and stand map**
 - ☐ **Location of water bodies**
 - ☐ **Significant wildlife habitat**
 - ☐ **Forest land: cover types/ stands**
 - ☐ **Non-forest land**
 - ☐ **Areas affected by shoreland zoning**
 - ☐ **North arrow, preparation date, legend, preparer's signature, and scale**

- ☐ **Spatial information: List of coordinates of vertices of woodlands OR GIS shapefiles OR Google Earth .kmz or .kml files OR other format cleared with Landowner Outreach Forester**

General conditions of woodlot:

- ☐ **Acreage listing including total acres, forest, and all non-forest cover types**
- ☐ **Condition of boundary lines**
- ☐ **Soils information**
- ☐ **General property description and history**
- ☐ **Access**
- ☐ **Legal considerations**

- Stand descriptions:
 - ☐ **Cover type, acreage**
 - ☐ **Dominant tree species**
 - ☐ **Size classes**
 - ☐ **Relative stocking**

- ☐ **Description of stand quality**
- ☐ **Field methods statement**

Stand prescriptions:

- ☐ **Silvicultural Prescription(s) for the planning period recommended to meet landowner's objectives.**
- ☐ **Activities to regenerate, improve and harvest timber, tied to stand ID**
- ☐ **Desired future stand conditions**

Long term resource considerations:

- ☐ **Threatened and Endangered species***
- ☐ **Inland Fisheries and Wildlife- identified habitats***
- ☐ **Wetlands**
- ☐ **Forest health**
- ☐ **Historical, cultural & archaeological sites**
- ☐ **Protection from fire**
- ☐ **Soil & water quality protection**
- ☐ **Biodiversity**
- ☐ **Fish & wildlife**
- ☐ **Monitoring**
- ☐ **Protection from pests**
- ☐ **Recreation**
- ☐ **Aesthetic quality**
- ☐ **Carbon sequestration**

☐ **Stewardship Pledge**

**These items may be covered by a MNAP review of the woodlands*

Sample Schedule of Activities:

| <u>Activity name</u> (should be same as used in Prescription section) | <u>Extent</u> of the activity (acres, feet, miles, etc.) | Recommended <u>time frame</u> (month, year, or range as applicable) | <u>Stand Location:</u> name or number (should be same as used in Description section and stand type map); or other location as applicable | <u>Cost/income</u> :: + (expected to yield income above cost) -- (expected to be a net expense) = (break-even) ? (unable to determine at this time) [At a minimum, use the symbols; may use text if preferred.] | (Optional) Priority: High, Medium, or Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boundary lines brushed, blazed and painted | 1500 feet | 2012 | South half of east line | -- | H |
| Commercial harvest: crop tree spacing and thin from below | 15 acres | 2015-2020 | M3 | + | M |
| Construction and seeding of "wildlife food plot" | 15000 sq. ft. | 2015-2020 (following commercial harvest) | Primary log landing and main skid trail, as shown on stand type map | = (Post-harvest stabilization of primary landing and main skid trail. Costs expected to be covered by stumpage income.) | L |
| Post harvest stand check-up and report | 15 acres | 2016-2021 (within one year of completion of harvest) | M3 | = (Forester's time and expense will be covered by logging contractor.) | M |
| Replace old culvert on Babble Brook road crossing | One 20' span bridge or arch culvert | 2011-2015 (complete before commercial harvest) | Woods road stream crossing, as shown on stand type map | ? (Need more information regarding labor, equipment and material costs and whether logging contractor can install and cover expense as part of commercial harvest.) | H |

Long-term resource considerations, sample statements (*in italics*):

Wetlands: *“Both forested wetlands and other kinds such as open marshes, bogs or beaver ponds provide habitat, flood control and scenic beauty. For more information, see the book Natural Landscapes of Maine, available from the Maine Natural Areas Program, 207-287-8044 or <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/index.html> ; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”*

Forest health: *“Balanced amounts of dead, down and dying wood are actually a beneficial part of a healthy functioning forest. However, severe weather, insects and diseases or other disturbances sometimes create an imbalance and become a barrier to realizing your goals and objectives. For more information, contact the MFS Division of Forest Health and Monitoring at (207) 287-2431 or visit http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/index.htm ; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”*

Historical, cultural & archaeological sites, other special sites: This item may be addressed by describing any locations in the woodlot with special significance to the landowner or the community, such as scenic views, special trees or stands, or cemeteries, headstones, etc. The following statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item:

“Stone walls and old cellar holes or foundations are often found in woodlands, as remnants of previous settlement and agriculture. High and dry areas near water bodies may have been pre-historic or Native American dwelling sites. Most properly conducted forest management activities will not harm these resources. Construction of roads, trails or landings, however, could potentially disturb significant sites. If you are interested in finding out more about your woodland, contact the Maine Historic Preservation Commission at (207) 287-2132 or visit <http://maine.gov/mhpc/> .”

Protection from fire: *“Wildfire is rare in Maine, but can be quite devastating when it occurs. There is a lot you can do to reduce the risk of a wildfire on your woodlot and near your home. For more information on how you can make your home “Firewise,” please visit http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_protection/firewise/index.html or call the Division of Forest Protection at 207-287-4990. Please be careful with all outdoor fires and observe all the open burning laws. If you see a wildfire or smell smoke during a high fire danger day, please call 911 or the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-750-9777.”*

Soil & water quality protection: *“Activities in the woods that involve roads, log landings, and yarding or recreational trails, can sometimes contribute to rutting, soil movement and pollution of the watershed. Improperly conducted logging operations can also cause damage. Use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) greatly reduces this risk. For more information, see the booklet entitled “Best Management Practices for Water Quality,” available from the MFS by calling 1-800-367-0223 or visiting http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/policy_management/water_resources/bmps.html ; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”*

Biodiversity: *“Forested landscapes are homes for more than just trees. No one parcel can provide habitat for all species. However, maintaining or improving existing woodland communities is a desirable goal. For more information, contact the Maine Natural Areas Program at 207-287-8044 or visit <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/index.html>; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”*

Fish & wildlife issues: This item may be addressed by describing any landowner-identified interests, such as deer habitat or stocking fish in ponds. The following statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item:
“There are no (other) specific landowner goals or concerns regarding fish or wildlife. As part of managing according to Stewardship Principles, maintaining a healthy functioning forest will contribute to maintaining healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat. For more information, contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”

Monitoring: *“Landowners, their families and/or designated representatives are encouraged to stay engaged with their woodlands. This can take the form of regularly scheduled boundary line maintenance, recreational activities such as hunting or hiking, or following up after completing silvicultural activities to check results. Keeping in touch with your land can help prevent theft or trespass. It can also be rewarding on many levels. For instance, setting up a picture post might be a fun family project. For more information about picture posts visit <http://picturepost.unh.edu/>. For more information about monitoring, contact your local MFS District Forester”.*

Protection from pests: *“There are many species of invasive plants and insects, both native and exotic, which can affect your woodland and possibly get in the way of meeting your goals and objectives. Monitoring for early detection can reduce negative impacts and reduce the costs of control. For more information, contact the MFS Division of Forest Health and Monitoring at (207) 287-2431 or visit http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/index.htm; or contact your local MFS District Forester.”*

Recreational opportunities: This item may be addressed by describing landowner’s stated recreational goals and/or activities, if any. The following statement can be used in addition or instead of the above to address this item:
“It is always a good idea to get landowner permission before engaging in recreational activities such as hunting, hiking or ATV or snowmobile use on someone else’s land. Maine’s Landowner Liability Law gives landowners a high degree of protection when other people use their land. For more information contact the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at (207) 287-8000 or visit www.maine.gov/ifw.”

Aesthetic quality: *“The visual impact of forestry activities can communicate a lot about stewardship. Efforts to maintain a harmonious woodland appearance usually pay off in a*

greater acceptance of silvicultural practices. For more information on logging aesthetics contact the Sustainable Forestry Initiative at (207) 622-9288 or visit www.sfinmaine.org.

Carbon sequestration: *“Living trees take carbon from the atmosphere and store it in wood fiber. Wood products continue to keep carbon out of the atmosphere. Among the many benefits provided by forests, removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in trees may have increasing significance in the years to come. For more information, visit http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/niacs/carbon/forests/carbon_sequestration/*